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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

No one can claim to be Muslim without unconditional faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwwat: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan in a decision on a criminal review petition No.2/2024 stated that no one can claim to be Muslim until he/she has unconditional faith in 'Khatam-e-Nabuwwat' of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH).



QUETTA: Members of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Aain-e-Pakistan holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing persons and release of Imran Khan

Leads protest rally & public meeting of Opposition alliance in Quetta: Achakzai calls for forming national government for three months in country

QUETTA: President Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) and Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stated that our movement is aimed at ensuring rule of people in the country.

JI announces sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad, Rawalpindi amid crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi following the arrest of its workers and road blockages at D-Chowk.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Advisors and MPAs expressing their views during Balochistan Assembly session

Serious threats of terrorism exist in BYC's jalsa in Gwadar: CM Bugti extends offer of talks to Dr. Mah Rang Baloch, asserts armed bands wouldn't be allowed to close roads

She is like our daughters. If she wants to organize jalsa in Turbat or any other city, we would facilitate her, but she must not hold jalsa in Gwadar as she planned on July 28; We can't hand over Red zone to the armed band at all. We allocate Hockey chowk for protest where we would also serve them

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has extended offer of talks to the leader of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), Dr. Mah Rang Baloch and said that she is like our daughters. If she wants to organize jalsa (public meeting) in Turbat or any other city, we would facilitate her, but she must not hold jalsa in Gwadar as she planned on July 28.



He said that one of the challenge relates to the crimes of theft, dacoity and robbery, which is not too big issue. He stressed that we need to depoliticize the police completely. Let, make pledge not to interfere in the police from today, adding the Chief Minister stressed. Speaking to the IGP Balochistan present in the

official gallery, the Chief Minister told that there would be no interference in the police from now. The IGP may post any police officer as DPO anywhere he wants, the Chief Minister asked him (IGP), however, he added, the House would hold accountability on your mistakes. While on the other hand, the Chief Minister maintained that the "RAW" funded organized terrorism is being done. He said that these terrorists have murdered 4,000 civilians in the province. He suggested to hold another debate against this organized terrorism. He said that hatred is

PM, Tajik envoy discuss regional connectivity projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir Friday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The prime minister welcomed the ambassador and wished him a successful tenure in Pakistan.



ERA BUGTI: A delegation of tribal elites meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Govt ready to negotiate with JI for country's development, prosperity: Attaullah Tarar

Maintaining peace, law & order provincial govt's responsibility: Amir Muqam ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Friday announced the government's readiness to negotiate with the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on their demand in a bid to end their sit-in causing inconvenience to the general public.

President approves appointment of two ad hoc judges to SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of retired Justices Sardar Tariq Masood and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal as ad hoc judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan for a one year term.

Ambreen Jan appointed Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Friday appointed Ambreen Jan, a senior officer of the Information Group, Grade 21, as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.

Terrorist killed in N Waziristan IBO

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in North Waziristan District on reported presence of terrorists on Friday.

Steps being taken for establishing good governance in Balochistan: Sarfraz Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the steps are being taken for establishing good governance in the province. He said that the process of reforms is very necessary for committee has been formed.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan being briefed by DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran about record room during his visit of Directorate of Public Relations Balochistan.

Opposition MPAs concerned about law & order situation in various parts of Balochistan

General debate on law & order situation in BA session: Ministers Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak say steps being taken to establish peace in Balochistan; law & order situation improved than past Independent Report (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair. While opening debate on the issue of law and order, the Leader of Opposition, Muhammad Younas Aziz Zehri alleged that the Police and CTD violate the chadar and chaar deewari. He said that the killers of our (Jamiat) leader could not be arrested in Khuzdar. He said that we have always remain peaceful.

Opposition MPAs concerned about law & order situation in various parts of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The members of provincial assembly belonging to the Opposition parties have expressed concern about the law and order situation in the province. They expressed concern about the law and order situation while participating in the general debate held on the issue during session of assembly on Friday. The Speaker, Captain

Friday afternoon. Also present on the occasion were the Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd and Parliamentary Secretary, Muhammad Khan Lehari. The Chief Minister met the public delegations and gave patient hearing to the issues raised by them. He issued on the spot directives to the concerned authorities to address the public issues.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presiding over a meeting regarding law and order situation. Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat is also present

Political philosophy & discourse, shared democracy formulate means to cope with challenges facing institutions & democratic behaviors: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the political philosophy as well as political discourse and shared democracy are the concepts connected with one another which formulate the means to cope with the challenges being faced by the political institutions and the democratic behaviors. He said that he got to the conclusion after doing practical politics for around four decades that one should continue the process of mutual consultation and grand alliance at the country's level instead of making any final decision in the politics and state. Because the public confidence is increased after taking in view the diverse opinions of different political leaders and experts and hearing the voices of silent majority. The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him

# AJK PM says Kashmiris to continue freedom struggle till achievement of freedom from Indian occupation

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Kashmiri would come to end and brothers and sisters who made unprecedented sacrifices would be free from the Indian bondage. He also paid great tributes to valiant people who had been bearing the brunt of Indian firing and shelling across the Line of Control (LoC). Reiterating his government's all-out support to Kashmiri's struggle, the PM said the people and AJK government would never leave their brethren in IIOJK alone in their battle against India's illegal occupation. Referring to the age-old political, cultural and religious bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan, the PM said that the bond between the people of both regions was unbreak-

able. "The basic relationship between Pakistan and Kashmir is based on Islamic faith", he said, adding that no one could harm the relationship. Taking a jibe on the Indian prime minister, the PM Haq said that nobody could dent this relationship even if thousands of Modi come together. Prime Minister Haq said that his government would focus on developing far-flung areas of the state which were neglected in previous tenures. "Hollow slogans, empty assurances and false announcements have spoiled us", he said adding that time had come to change this culture. The prime minister said that the government was providing a subsidy of

Rs 71 billion on electricity and flour. The PM said that despite limited resources the government had fulfilled its demands adding that there was a dire need that the people must also acknowledge their duties towards the state. He said that the government was keen to address the issue of unemployment and provide basic amenities of life to the people.



SOHBATPUR: A delegation meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti at Khosa house

# Pakistan rejects Indian prime minister's belligerent remarks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has denounced Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's confrontational remarks made on July 26, 2024, in Drass, Ladakh, asserting that such statements damage regional peace and impede the resolution of the Kashmir conflict. Bravado and jingoism undermine regional peace, and are totally counter-productive for resolution of long-standing disputes between Pakistan and India, especially the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, said a press release issued by foreign office spokesperson. While Pakistan is ready to counter India's aggressive actions, it remains committed to promoting peace and stability in the region.

The Kashmiri people's just struggle for realization of their fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly their inalienable right to self-determination. Instead of maligning others for terrorism, India should reflect on its own campaign of orchestrating targeted assassinations, subversion and terrorism in foreign territories. Pakistan stands resolute in its intent and ability to safeguard its sovereignty against any aggression, as exemplified by its robust response to India's reckless incursion in February 2019.

# CPA seeks Rs 2.63 per unit increase in tariff for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought Rs 2.63 per unit increase in power tariff for June under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism. In a petition submitted to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on behalf of KWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs), the CPPA-G maintained the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.77 per unit against reference fuel charges of Rs 7.14 per unit for the month of June. A total of 13,459 GWh electricity worth Rs 119,704 million was generated during the said period while net 13,071 GWh worth Rs 127,712 million was delivered to DISCOs.

# PML-N moves resolution against 'digital terrorism'

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has submitted a resolution against 'digital terrorism' in the Punjab Assembly. PML-N member Raheela Khadim Hussain presented the resolution. The resolution states that 'digital terrorism' is undermining the political and social foundations of the country. It highlights that these terrorists often attack institutions and harass officers and their families. The resolution further mentions that acts of 'digital terrorism' are also publicized internationally, tarnishing the country's image. It accuses social media bloggers of engaging in malicious activities at the best of disruptive political parties. The text of the resolution asserts that political leaders, workers, and institutions are not safe from

digital terrorism. It also references a fake clip attributed to Uzma Bukhari that was widely circulated, which had no basis in reality. The resolution calls for strict measures to stop digital terrorists and punish them severely. The federal government has designated special courts in Islamabad under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, to try 'digital terrorists' and those allegedly involved in spreading 'anti-state propaganda' through digital content in the virtual world, it emerged on Tuesday. The federal government's decision to try people under Peca surfaced after the law ministry issued a notification pertaining to the establishment of the special courts, stating that the decision was taken after consulting the chief justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).



QUETTA: Internee students of University and Cadet College meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran

# Clean Drinking Water PHED Department ensures swift cleaning of nullahs

Independent Report SIBI: Deputy Commissioner Sibi Jahanzeb Sheikh has said that the PHED department is working swiftly to clean all nullahs to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to citizens. He expressed these views during a visit to the central nullahs and pond of the PHED department, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Ali Asghar Magasi and XEN PHED Mir Shahak Baloch. XEN PHED informed the Deputy Commissioner that the cleaning process of nullahs is underway and will be completed soon. He added that due to the flood situation, the water is currently not clean, but after the rains, citizens will have access to clean water at their doorsteps without any difficulties. Deputy Commissioner Sibi Jahanzeb Sheikh also inspected the Water Distribution System at the Nari River site of the Irrigation Department. XEN Irrigation Khadim Chandio briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the details of water distribution.

# DC Hub expedites repairs on alternative route to Hub River

HUB (APP): The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hub, Ruhana Gul Kakar on Friday sped up the repair work on the alternative route connecting Sindh and Balochistan along the Hub River, on Friday. According to DC Office, Rehana Gul Kakar took immediate notice of the damage to the alternative route and contacted officials from the National Highway Authority (NHA). She urged them to commence maintenance and repair work on the route without delay.



Deputy Commissioner Sibi Jahanzeb Sheikh visits central nullahs and pond of PHED department

# Opposition MPAs concerned...

Continued from page 1 war together. He said that all of us would have to unite against violence and terrorism. He said that 10 districts of the province were affected due to the proxy war started in 2006. He pointed out that the incidents of theft and dacoities have been increased in Panjur during last two years. He said that the culprits managed to escape despite the geofencing done after the law and order incidents. He also pointed out that use and selling of drugs is common in Panjur, and adding demanded of the government to take steps for restoration of law and order in Pishin. Responding to the speeches of Opposition MPAs, the Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Sadiq Umrani said that it is utmost effort of Chief Minister Balochistan to restore law and order in the province. He also demanded action against those backing the kidnappers and killers. Similarly, the MPA of Agha JUI, Syed Zafar Agha pointed out that the law and order situation has been worsening in Pishin district with every passing day. He said that the incidents of theft of vehicles have become common. He demanded of the government to take steps for restoration of law and order in Pishin. The National Party's MPA Rehmat Saleh Baloch said that every segment of the society wants peace in the province. He said that Balochistan was subjected to the proxy war and as such he wants to fight this

# Ceremony organized regarding World Population Day in Dera Allah Yar

QUETTA (APP): Like Jafarabad across the country, a grand ceremony was organized in Dera Allah Yar area of Balochistan on the occasion of World Population Day on Friday. Addressing at the ceremony as Chief guest, Assistant Commissioner Dera Allah Yar Fahad Cheema said that parents should make it mandatory for them to give birth to their children at least two years apart. It has a great effect on the health of mother and child, in today's modern era, there are family planning centers in every area where you can get useful advice regarding child bearing, he said.

# District Health Committee meets to address monsoon challenges

Independent Report USTA MUHAMMAD: A meeting of the District Health Committee was held in Usta Muhammad on July 20, 2024, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jalil Ahmed. The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Dr. Abdul Mannan Lakhti, Assistant Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ramzan Ishaq, and other officials. The meeting discussed various issues related to healthcare facilities, attendance of doctors and paramedical staff, availability of medicines, and other key challenges. Deputy Commissioner Jalil Ahmed emphasized the need for pre-emptive measures to address the challenges posed by monsoon rains, citing the experiences of previous floods. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that it is essential to take precautionary measures, including ensuring the availability of essential medicines and the attendance of all doctors and paramedical staff at their designated places. He also directed that strict action be taken against absenteeism among health staff and that monitoring be ensured to address the issue. The meeting was also briefed on the performance report by District Support Manager Shahjahan Mengal.

# Achakzai calls for forming...

Continued from page 1 He strongly criticized the move of rulers regarding banning PTI in the country. He said that we have not been told yet how the country was dismantled in 1971. He said that all politicians are involved in weakening the country. This is why we have to mend our way in future, adding he stressed. Mehmood Khan Achakzai also suggested to form national government for three months and then hand over the government to new elected representatives by holding general elections after three months. Earlier, the grand rally was taken out under leadership of Mehmood Khan Achakzai from the lawns of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation. The rally passed through Adalat road, Shahrah-e-Iqbal and terminated at Bacha Khan Chowk where public meeting was held. The prominent leaders of opposition parties including Sajid Tareen Advocate, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Dr. Hamid Achakzai, Provincial President of PTI, Dawood Shah Kakar, Malik Naseer Shahwani and others.

# CM Bugti extends offer of talks ...

Continued from page 1 zone for occupation. He asserted that we can't hand over Red zone to the armed band at all. He said that we allocate Hockey chowk for protest where we would also serve them. Referring the public meeting planned by BCY on July 28 in Gwadar, the Chief Minister said that the public meeting is being held at a time when the second phase of CPEC is about to come. He said that there happen to be international movement in Gwadar. While there are also threats of terrorism during protest in Gwadar which would be done by a banned organization itself, he feared.

# Govt ready to negotiate with....

Continued from page 1 who had been working 20 hours a day to implement the agenda of home grown economic reforms that included privatization of loss making entities, digitization of the Federal Board of Revenue for documentation of non-documented economy, addition of new filers in the tax net and other initiatives. He said it was top priority of the government to achieve home grown economic reforms that had started providing fiscal space to offer subsidy to the people in electricity bills. He said the privatization of the FBR was underway to plug loopholes in system to stop billions of rupee leakage and add new filers into the tax net. "We are moving forward rapidly on economic reforms to bring positive changes in people's life," he added. The minister said PM Shehbaz Sharif led the government during the tenure of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and took concrete measures to stabilize the rupee, reduce inflation and on top of that successfully averted a default for the country. It was speculated that Pakistan may get default and foreign investors would withdraw their investment, but PM Shehbaz Sharif saved the country from economic collapse despite the efforts to sabotage a deal with the International Monetary Fund, he added. Tarar recalled the achievements of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in 2018 when the economy was growing at 6 per cent and inflation was clocked at 4 per cent with the unit of electricity cost only Rs 8 per unit. The minister said the



DG NAB (Balochistan) listening complainants during Khuli Kachehri held at NAB's complaint office at DC Office Quetta





## Governor Kundi lauds Zardari's contributions to democracy, political harmony

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a special message marking the birthday of President Asif Ali Zardari, on Friday lauded his contributions to democracy and political harmony in the country. Faisal Karim Kundi described Asif Ali Zardari as a towering figure in the realm of democratic governance and political reconciliation, noting his significant role after the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto. He emphasized that Asif Zardari remains a prominent and challenging figure for those opposed to democracy and Pakistan's stability. According to Governor Faisal Kundi, Zardari's life has been characterized by resilience in the face of difficulties and a steadfast commitment to the stability of democracy and Pakistan. He praised Asif Ali Zardari for setting a high standard by transferring powers to the provinces instead of concentrating them, showcasing his dedication to decentralization. The Governor highlighted Zardari's unique role in promoting Pakistan's stability, fostering regional trade, and upholding the Constitution. Governor Kundi's message underscores Zardari's influential and enduring impact on Pakistan's political landscape.



PESHAWAR: Members of Salaried Class Alliance are holding protest demonstration against high taxes on salaried class, at Peshawar press club.

## Nisar Khuhro praises Zardari's role in upholding democracy

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh President Nisar Khuhro stated that Asif Ali Zardari is the first civilian to serve as the country's President for a second term. President Zardari, by implementing the 18th Amendment and transferring his powers to the parliament, ensured the continuity of democracy and upheld the supremacy of the parliamentary constitution in the country. His policy of reconciliation has also contributed to the functioning of democratic governments in the country. Nisar Khuhro expressed these views while speaking at the 69th birthday celebration of President Asif Ali Zardari, organized by the People's Labor Bureau. He also noted that President Asif Ali Zardari has the solution to end the current political strife in the country. The PPP Sindh President emphasized that the doors of the People's Party are open for reconciliation and dialogue with all political parties. He also urged Imran Niazi to disassociate himself from the Tiger Force within his party, as there is no place for any private force in politics. Nisar Khuhro further mentioned that for the survival of democracy, the parliament was established with the support of the PML-N, but Imran Niazi is not a supporter of democracy. He stated that under the People's Party's rule, there are no political prisoners, but the law will take action against those who commit crimes.



KARACHI: Pakistani fire fighters struggle to control a fire which broke out in a multi-story building located on Shahr-e-Faisal in Karachi.

## JKLF (Y) calls for peaceful resolution to Kashmir issue

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): The US-based Acting Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik, Raja Muzaffar and Director of the Board of South Asia Democracy Watch USA has called for a constructive approach to resolving the long-standing Kashmir issue. In a statement released to media here on Friday, Raja Muzaffar responded to the recent US travel advisory on Kashmir, stating that the Indian government's reaction to the advisory is "unjustified and misguided." Instead of debating the issue negatively in the media, India and Pakistan should take this advisory as a reminder that Kashmir remains a contentious issue that requires a peaceful resolution. Muzaffar suggested that the JKLF (Y) leader emphasized that the aspirations and wishes of the Kashmiri people must be taken into account and their desire for independence. The neighbouring people further pointed out that the incident could be the result of heavy rain during which the roof collapsed.

## Mehsud Press Club delegation meets IGFC South: challenges and solutions discussed

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN (APP): The Mehsud Press Club delegation, headed by President Farooq Mahsud, met with Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhry, IG FC South, in Wana to discuss the issues faced by journalists in the region. The delegation highlighted difficulties encountered by journalists in South Waziristan, Tank, and Dera Ismail Khan, and proposed potential solutions. Major General Haroon Hameed acknowledged the vital role journalists play in society, ensuring that the community remains informed. He assured that FC South is committed to supporting journalists, allowing them to work without any fear or hindrance in the region. He also stressed the importance of combating misinformation and disinformation, praising the initiatives taken by the Mehsud Press Club in this regard. The IG FC South urged journalists to promote the region's beauty, traditions, and culture.



LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed in a group photo with delegation led by Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora.

## CM approves Rs16m grant, vehicles for association of blind

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Association of the Blind, Sindh, approved a grant of Rs16 million and vehicles to pick & drop the blind children from their homes to school. "We are implementing the five per cent quota in government jobs for differently abled persons," the CM said in his meeting with the association members. The meeting was attended by PSCM Agha Wasif and Secretary DEPDP Tauha Farooqi. The delegation comprised Association President Riaz Memon, Senior Vice President Ghulam Dastagir, General Secretary Saad Noor, Secretary Finance Mohsin Ali, and others. The CM said that the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has directed him to resolve all the issues of the persons with impairment of vision. At this, Riaz Memon, president of the Association, said that his delegation had called on him [President Zardari]. Mr Riaz said that Asif Ali Zardari, during his last tenure as President of Pakistan, had granted them a concession card for travelling in PIA and Railways, which was rescinded when his tenure was over. He said that the PPP government of Gilani had also supported them, and the support was discontinued when the government was changed. The CM was told that Blind persons should be issued a CNIC reflecting their vision impairment. At this, the CM assured the association that he would talk to the NADRA authorities to resolve their issue. The association members requested the CM approve an annual grant for their association. At this, the CM approved the Rs16 million annual grant and directed the DEPDP Secretary to send him a summary for formal approval. The association members told the CM that their two centres - Larkana and Karachi - needed transport facilities for pick and drop.

## Fed Insurance Ombudsman meets CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Federal Insurance Ombudsman Syed Mumtaz Shah called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and apprised him about the performance of his institutions here at the CM House. Mumtaz Shah told the CM that the Federal Insurance Ombudsman has headquarters in Karachi and regional offices in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Lahore, Multan, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. The federal Ombudsman resolves the complaints of insurance policyholders by giving hearings to both parties. Mumtaz Shah said and added that the Ombudsman provided relief to policyholders. The federal Ombudsman provided transparent, fair, and speedy justice by resolving disputes in 60 days. "We provided relief of Rs 5 billion last year by passing orders in almost 5000 complaints against the companies," Mumtaz said. He further said, "I am Pakistani by choice as in 1947, the majority of Sikh families migrated to India, but our ancestors stayed here." He said that Government College University is a historical and great educational institution, where famous people of the Sikh community studied, including Prof. Sahib Singh, Mir Singh and others. Sardar Dr. Kalyan Singh said that he had developed a booklet which made the Punjabi Gurmukhi script easy for students to read and learn. This manual was used in all educational institutions where Punjabi is taught, he added. Sardar Kalyan Singh Kalyan is the first Sikh professor in Pakistan who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Punjabi at Government College University Lahore. Sardar Dr Kalyan Singh is also an author and researcher of several books while his research on Punjabi script is part of the syllabus.

## Two died as a mud house collapsed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two people have died as a mud house collapsed late last night on Thursday in the Misrial Road area. A family was sleeping when the mud roof of the house collapsed, resulting in two people buried under debris. According to emergency service, Rescue 1122 teams recovered two bodies which were shifted to the hospital after necessary action. The deceased were identified as Sajid 27, and his 7 years old daughter Malaika. The locals informed that the house was an old-fashioned construction in which mud was used. The single-story building's roof was too weak to hold any extra weight, they said.

## Man killed in a brawl

SARGODHA (APP): A man was killed by his native villagers on some domestic issues here at chak No.26 SB under the jurisdiction of Bhaganwala police station, here on Friday. Police spokesperson said that Arshad (44) and Ahsaan (32) had a brawl with their native villager namely Naseer (34) on some domestic matters. On the day of incident they killed Naseer after opening fire at him.

## Saylani Trust opens new branch in Peshawar for free meal distribution

PESHAWAR (APP): Saylani Welfare Trust, a charity organization helping needy people in different parts of the country, has opened its new branch on Friday for distribution of free meal among needy people in provincial metropolis, Peshawar. The inauguration of new office of Saylani was jointly performed by Afan Aziz, a prominent industrialist of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and head of Aziz Jan Welfare Trust, and Shafiq Miadad, Trustee Member Saylani Trust Faisalabad city. Both Afan Aziz and Shafiq Miadad distributed lunch among hundreds of need people gathered outside the new office of Saylani at Saddar area of Peshawar. Speaking on the occasion, Afan Aziz said Saylani Welfare Trust is doing a remarkable service by providing free meal to thousands of people in the country at two times on daily basis. Apart from free meal, the charity organization is also providing free Information Technology (IT) training to thousands of students in different cities of the country. The approach of imparting educational, especially IT, learning to country's youth is a ray of hope for overcoming the crisis being faced by our country. Afan expressed the hope. He urged people those who can afford to come forward and contribute in this noble cause of providing free education to country's youth.

## Rana announces ambitious matric, Inter-tech courses program for 300 schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): "In a major boost to the education sector in Punjab, Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Friday unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, announcing the launch of an ambitious Matric, Inter-Tech project to revolutionize the learning experience for students in 300 public schools across the province which will enable them hands-on experience and skill-building in their chosen fields. Talking to a Private news channel, he said the Matric, Inter-Tech project aims to address the long-standing issue of students graduating with theoretical knowledge but lacking the practical skills demanded by employers. To achieve this, the courses will be carefully crafted to integrate theoretical concepts with hands-on training, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation, he mentioned. "Responding to a question, Provincial Minister for Education clarified that the government does not plan to build new school buildings for the Matric, Inter-Tech project, adding, instead, the existing infrastructure will be optimized by merging 600 to 700 school buildings, creating larger, more resourceful campuses. He said that by incorporating these cutting-edge subjects into the curriculum, the government aims to equip students with the skills required to thrive in the modern workforce. The merged schools will also provide students with access to advanced tools, software, and equipment."



SUKKUR: Sindh Energy Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah is giving the allotment letter of the house constructed by the government to the flood victims, in Sukkur.

## Apex committee approved demands keeping in view aspirations of people: CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Friday said that all the demands presented by Bannu Aman Committee (BAC) have been approved by Provincial Apex Committee. He was addressing a public gathering in district Bannu. He said that Apex Committee in its meeting thoroughly discussed each and every point of the peace committee and accepted all the demands as per aspirations of the people. The Chief Minister thanked the people and their leaders for cooperating with administration in handling the situation arising out of tragic incident in Bannu. He said that the children studying in seminars are dear to us and steps would be taken for their well being. CM said that he would not accept any armed group and directed police to take actions against armed people. Provincial Minister Pakhtunyar, MNA Maulana Naseem Ali Shah, MPA Adnan Wazir and other elders also addressed the public gathering.

## Punjab government working for welfare of minorities: Arora

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora on Friday met with Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Malik Ahmad Khan. They discussed various programs to be held in connection with International Day of Religious Minorities on August 11. Both leaders emphasized that protecting the rights and welfare of religious minorities is a top priority of the government. Minister Ramesh Singh Arora mentioned that on August 11, various events and programs would be organized to empower minority communities socially and economically. Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan stated that the Punjab government is taking all possible measures to protect the rights of religious minorities, and the programs to be held on August 11 will be a practical demonstration of this commitment. The meeting also included detailed discussions on organizing various cultural, educational, and social programs, with a determination to ensure their success. Ramesh Singh Arora stressed that the Punjab government is working in full cooperation and harmony with minority communities.

## Harassment of women not to be tolerated: Hina

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Women Protection Authority Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt said on Friday that harassment of women at workplaces and homes would not be tolerated. Speaking at a seminar organized by the National Commission of Women at a local hotel, here she urged women to report any injustice they face, assuring them of immediate action and full cooperation from the Punjab Police. While representing Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Hina emphasized the importance of women standing up against domestic violence. She encouraged those suffering in silence to muster up courage to come forward. "Women resorting to suicide is the extreme consequence of the grave issue of blackmailing and harassment they face," she said. Hina Parvez Butt highlighted the disparity between ordinary women and women in politics, questioning whether common women receive the same respect as their political counterparts. In her first ten days as Chairperson of the Women Protection Authority.



KARACHI: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Karachi press club.

## Commerce minister highlights significant contributions of ECO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday underscored Pakistan's commitment to the ECO, highlighting its significant contributions to the organization's initiatives.

In a pivotal meeting held in Islamabad, ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri met with Pakistani Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss regional trade dynamics and the future direction of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, Minister Jam Kamal Khan lauded Ambassador Noziri for his exceptional service to the ECO and expressed confidence that his successor, Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, would continue to advance the organization's activities.

Noziri provided an overview of ECO's recent activities and emphasized

the ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing the organization's regional and global influence.

He expressed optimism that these reforms would continue under the new Secretary General, strengthening the organization's impact.

The discussion focused on strategies to boost intra-regional trade and enhance connectivity among member states.

Both sides reviewed the progress of ECO-Vision 2025, which was adopted during the 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad in 2017.

Minister Khan highlighted Pakistan's visa-free policy for 126 countries as a model to enhance trade cooperation globally and suggested a similar ECO Visa policy to facilitate trade among member states.

Quorum issues for ECO meetings were also addressed to ensure effective decision-making and policy formulation.

Ambassador Noziri

acknowledged Pakistan's pivotal role in the organization, both in trade and political spheres, being a founding member of the ECO.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the need for concrete and results-oriented policies to promote sustainable development in the region.

He assured the Secretary General full support for the ECO reform agenda and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing intra-regional trade.

Ambassador Noziri expressed gratitude for Pakistan's hospitality and stressed the importance of continued collaboration among member states.

Naziri also appreciated Pakistan role in eco and initiatives undertaken by Pakistan.

He suggested expanding the ECO by including Georgia and Armenia to strengthen ties between Central Asia and South Asia, with Pakistan taking a leading role.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain launched PCI - POWERCHINA SEZ Policy Report.

## NA body told Land of PSM to be used for establishment of SEZs

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Standing Committee on Industries & Production on Friday was informed 19,000 acres of the land of Pakistan Still Mills (PSM) would be utilized for the establishment of Special Economic Zone (SEZs) for the industrial development in the country.

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Syed Hafeez ud Din, which was briefed by the Federal Secretary Ministry of Industries about working and performance of the ministry and its attached departments, said a press release.

While briefing about the PSM, the Secretary said that in the meetings of Special Investment

Facilitation Council (SIFC) decided to declare the PSM as scrap as it was nearly impossible to revive the PSM with existing infrastructure and out-dated technology however, they further decided that the 19,000 acres land of PSM would be utilized for establishment of SEZs.

He further said that two SEZs of 500 and 700 acres of land was established respectively and on the request of Chief Minister, Sindh the 700 acres additional land was allocated to the provincial government for the re-establishment of state of art steel mill with modern technology and infrastructure.

He also stated that Ministry has accorded

approval for disconnection of Gas supply to the Pakistan Steel Mills on 30th June, 2024 in order to prevent the national exchequer with the additional cost of approximately Rs 2.5 billion. On the request of the Federal Minister for Industries & Production the Committee decided to hold the separate meeting on the Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM) in-depth briefing of the committee.

Meanwhile, the MD, Utility Store Corporation (USC) apprised the committee about the functions, performance and problems faced the management of USC.

He stated that Utility Store Corporation was established in 1971 under the Companies Act, 2017.

## Govt taking steps to facilitate business community: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for industries and production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the government is taking steps to facilitate the business community and common man.

The minister said while talking to a delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) led by its President Atif Ikram Sheikh. He said that the government is setting up special economic zones for investment whereas he stressed that economic development could be achieved only by

increasing exports.

The government is trying to solve the problems faced by the industry, he added.

President FPCCI said that energy prices will have to be brought at par with regional countries.

In order to get rid of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and increase domestic exports, we have to go towards industrialization.

If the government provides relief in the electricity tariff, the business community can achieve the export target of 60 billion dollars, said Atif Ikram Sheikh.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. Neil Hawkins called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

## Kashif Anwar urges govt to support businesses by reducing electricity prices

LAHORE (APP): President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Kashif Anwar has said that the economic conditions are challenging and the government needs to support the business sector by reducing electricity prices and simplifying the tax system.

This would enable the business community to play a significant role in the country's economic recovery and increase the exports.

He expressed these views while addressing a delegation from the Faisalabad Women Chamber, led by its President Rubina Amjad.

FPCCI Vice President Qurat-ul-Ain, former President and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Trade and Export

Development Sobia Aqeel, former senior vice president Shahida Iqbal and others were present.

The LCCI president said that the government must take special measures for women entrepreneurs and LCCI was already doing a lot in this regard. Kashif Anwar said that LCCI, as the premier chamber of commerce in the country, was actively empowering women and promoting their development in every field.

There were approximately 2,000 women members of the LCCI and their number was increasing significantly every year, he added.

President Faisalabad Women Chamber Rubina Amjad, emphasised that to improve the country's economic situation.

## FBR committed to resolve taxpayer issues in KP, Chairman FBR assures Governor KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi visited the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) headquarters and met with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and discussed various tax-related matters and issues faced by the people of the province.

The Chairman FBR assured the Governor that all possible measures would be taken to resolve the issues faced by taxpayers in KP, said a news release here on Friday.

The Chairman FBR

also apprised about the ongoing tax reforms being implemented by the FBR including digitisation and automation of its systems to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability.

He reiterated the FBR's dedication to creating a conducive environment for taxpayers through continuous reforms and improvements in the tax system.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi expressed his appreciation for the efforts being made by the FBR to modernize and improve the tax system.



ISLAMABAD: ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri calls on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss regional trade dynamics and the future direction of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

## Financial digitalization can help document economy: Jazz CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): CEO Jazz, Chairman Mobilink Microfinance Bank, and Chairman Telecom Operators' Association of Pakistan Amir Ibrahim said Pakistan could document its economy by switching over to financial digitalization.

"By moving towards a digital economy, the county can foster financial inclusion, improve tax compliance by documenting the economy, and create countless economic opportunities for millions of Pakistanis," he expressed these views while talking to media.

While talking to

journalists he outlined a comprehensive strategy to accelerate Pakistan's shift towards a cashless society, underscoring the critical importance of prioritizing digital and financial inclusion as national imperatives. He proposed several key policy interventions to drive the adoption of digital financial services included ensuring universal access by integrating smartphones, SIM cards, and digital wallets or bank accounts (with already established services) into the national identity card issuance process, potentially funded through the Universal Service Fund.



KARACHI: Members of All Saddar Alliance of Market and Mall Association are holding protest demonstration against economic crisis, at Saddar area in Karachi.

## Over Rs. 84 bln disbursed among beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed over Rs.84 billion among over 80,00,000 beneficiaries from across the country so far under the Benazir Kafaalat quarterly payments (April-June).

"Till July 25, over Rs. 84 billion has been disbursed among over 80,00,000 beneficiaries which make 81 per cent of the total beneficiaries", said an official source.

The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries is continued across the country to disburse Rs. 1,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary

families.

The beneficiaries can receive their payment through the nearest centers after receiving the message from 8171. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program.

The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly.

However, the beneficiaries can also contact the officials on WhatsApp numbers including 03018472841 (Hyderabad District), 03018472838 (Karachi Division), 03175370095 (South Punjab).

## Gold rates up by Rs.1,000 per tola to Rs.251,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs. 251,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 250,500 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 858 to Rs. 215,621 from Rs. 214,763 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold up to Rs. 197,652 from Rs.196,866, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,860 and Rs.2,451.98 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,473 from \$2,470, the Association reported.

## Mobilink Bank upgrades treasury operations with AutoSoft Dynamics

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has brought on board AutoSoft Dynamics, a renowned global provider of core banking and financial application solutions, as a strategic partner to automate their treasury financial services.

Adil Ali Abbasi, Chief Financial Officer Mobilink Bank and Bilal Mahmood, M.D. Contour Software & CEO AutoSoft Dynamics formalized the partnership in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both organizations.

Under this partnership, AutoSoft will facilitate Mobilink Bank's seamless integration with the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) PRISM solution through its Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system. This integration ensures secure and instantaneous fund transfers, aligning with the Bank's commitment to providing premium

operations.

Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Faisal Mahmood, Chief Information Officer, Mobilink Bank, said, "We at Mobilink Bank are continuously working on improving our customer's experience. Partnering with industry leaders like AutoSoft Dynamics allows us to utilize cutting-edge technology and create a more agile and efficient banking system."

## No proper assessment made in PPA's with IPPs: President PBF

KARACHI (INP): President Pakistan Business Forum (PBF), Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman said that no proper consideration of the potential consequences was made in the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Independent Electricity Producers (IEPs) creating economic problems for both the countrymen and industry.

Addressing the business community in South Punjab, the PBF President highlighted the absence of unbiased consultant services and the necessary professional or technical knowledge to effectively handle the substantial number of IPPs. These contracts mandate the procurement of a set minimum quantity

of power from the IPPs. If you look into Chinese IPP only, the payables touching almost \$2 billion dollars and the government is contemplating finalizing a schedule of payments to Chinese Independent Power Producers.

Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman said that we must understand, "Pakistan cannot afford to make the same mistakes every few years just because a new group of investors wants to get paid for doing nothing. Our country is blessed with all resources. All we need for prosperity is for the mismanagement to end".

The PBF demanded that the federal government to initiate forensic audits of these IPPs, including investment forensic audits.



FAISALABAD: Labourers busy in plucking dates at his Farm.



MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fawad Hashim Rabbani cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the mango festival at Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University.

## FAO, PCCC research collaboration to enhance cotton production: Yusuf

MULTAN (APP): The collaboration and partnership between United Nation's (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) will be instrumental in aligning cotton production technology with international standards to advance and promote cotton production in the country.

This was stated by Dr. Yusuf Zafar (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), Vice President of PCCC, in a meeting with a three-member FAO delegation led by Ms. Emilda Berjina, Senior Technical Advisor (Punjab) /FAO Project Manager on Friday at the PCCC headquarters here. She was

accompanied by Mudassar Hayat and Mudassar Maqsood from FAO.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar hoped the mutual cooperation and partnership would turn out to be fruitful on way to achieving goals of enhanced cotton production and take white gold quality to new highs.

Under this partnership, both organizations shall work on modern research projects with anticipation that FAO's global expertise and PCCC's local knowledge will combine to align the cotton production technology with international standards. It will help strengthen the cotton industry in Pakistan and introduce farmers to advanced techniques.

# Trump discusses US wiping Iran 'off the face of the Earth'

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Thursday invoked the annihilation of US adversary Iran in a social media post reminiscent of his most incendiary outbursts while in the White House. "If they do 'assassinate' President Trump, which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth — if that does not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless cowards!'" he wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social. Trump made the remarks alongside a brief video of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bringing up alleged Iranian plots against Trump in his address to the US Congress on Wednesday. US media reported last week that the US Secret Service had increased security for Trump weeks ago after authorities learned of an Iranian plot to kill him, although it was not linked to the recent attempt on his life in which a 20-year-old American fired shots during a campaign rally. CNN reported that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" on a plan by Tehran targeting the former president, causing protection to be boosted for Trump. Other US outlets also reported the plot.



WASHINGTON: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators carrying an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu protest in front of the White House to protest US President Joe Biden's meeting with Netanyahu.

## Kamala Harris gains ground in US polls as Trump tries to brand her a Marxist

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris took her presidential campaign blitz to the largest US teachers' union on Thursday, promising a "fight for the future" as new opinion polls showed her narrowing the gap with Republican rival Donald Trump. Harris' swift emergence as the successor to President Joe Biden, 81, as the Democratic presidential candidate in the Nov 5 election has shaken up a stagnant presidential race, with polls showing her narrowing former President Trump's advantage. In an address in Houston to the American Federation of Teachers, Harris, 59, focused on economic policy and workers' rights, touting plans for affordable healthcare and child care and

## EU sends first \$1.6 billion from frozen Russia assets to Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk** THE HAGUE: The European Union announced Friday it had made 1.5 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) available to support Ukraine, the first tranche of money generated from profits on frozen Russian assets. In May, the EU's 27 member states reached an agreement to use the interest earned on some 210 billion euros (\$225 billion) in Russian central bank assets for military support for Ukraine and rebuilding efforts in the war-torn country. The money, most of which is held in Belgium, was frozen as part of sanctions packages in retaliation for Moscow's full-scale invasion.

## Suspended UK policeman 'assaulted fellow cop's brother'

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: The British Pakistani man who was kicked in the head and stamped on by a police officer at Manchester Airport, has a cyst on his brain, according to the family's lawyer. Lawyer Akhmed Yakoob made this statement outside Rochdale Police Station, following the widespread circulation of footage of the incident from Manchester Airport on social media. Mr Yakoob identified the man as Fahir, who was found to have a cyst on his brain after a CT scan was conducted post-incident. Mr Yakoob, who is also representing Fahir's brother Amaad and their elderly mother, stated that Fahir's condition deteriorated overnight. The family alleges they were assaulted by at least one officer from Greater Manchester Police (GMP).



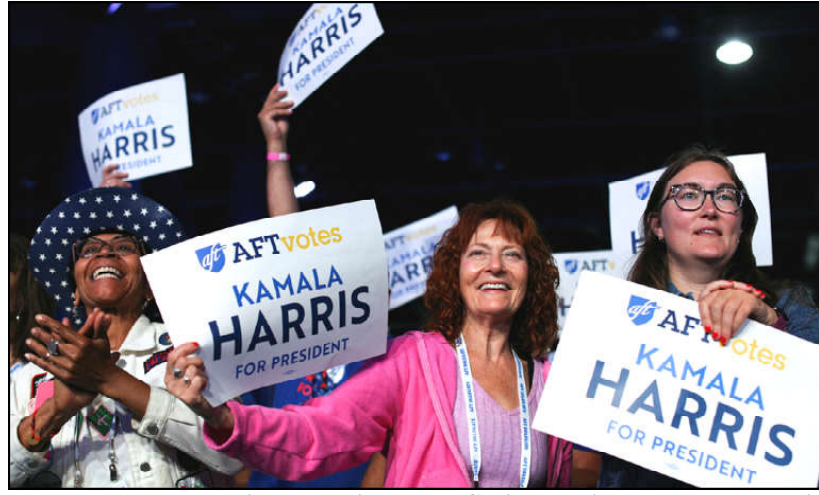
Former US President and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Humanity suffering from heat epidemic: UN chief

**Monitoring Desk** UNITED NATIONS: Humanity is suffering from an "extreme heat epidemic," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday, calling for action to limit the impacts of heat waves intensified by climate change. "Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic — wilting under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," he said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit. And half-way to boiling." "Today, our focus is on the impact of extreme heat. But let's not forget that there are many other devastating symptoms of the climate crisis: ever-more fierce hurricanes. Floods. Droughts. Wildfires. Rising sea levels. And the list goes on," he said.

## UN calls for probe into crackdown in Bangladesh

**Monitoring Desk** GENEVA: The UN rights chief called on Thursday on Bangladesh to urgently disclose the details of last week's crackdown on protests amid accounts of "horrific violence", calling for an impartial, independent and transparent investigation. "We understand that many people were subjected to violent attacks by groups reportedly affiliated with the Government, and no effort was made to protect them," Volker Turk said in a statement. Last week's violence killed at least 193 people including several police officers, according to the source count of victims reported by police and hospitals, in one of the biggest upheavals of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure. The unrest was sparked by protests against a public jobs quota scheme that critics say gives preference to allies of Hasina's ruling party. Thousands of troops are still patrolling cities and a nationwide internet shutdown remains largely in effect, but clashes have subsided since protest leaders announced a temporary halt to new demonstrations.



People hold placards in the audience as US Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the keynote speech at the American Federation of Teachers' 88th national convention in Houston, Texas, US.

## Hamas leader tortured and starved to death in Israeli custody

WEST BANK (NP): A Hamas leader died in Israeli custody in the West Bank, Palestinian authorities and the group said Friday, as Israel attacks against unarmed Palestinians continued unabated in Gaza. Mustafa Muhammad Abu Ara, 63, died after being moved from a prison in southern Israel to a hospital, according to a joint statement by the Palestinian Authority's prisoners affairs body and the Palestinian Prisoners' Club watchdog. "We mourn the passing of the leader and prisoner Sheikh Mustafa Muhammad Abu Ara and hold the occupation responsible for his assassination through deliberate medical neglect," Hamas said in a statement. Abu Ara was arrested in October while suffering severe health problems, the Palestinian body and the watchdog said.

## BJP-RSS aiming to destroy India's education sector: Congress president

NEW DELHI (INP): In a scathing critique, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has said that the Modi government is attempting to dismantle India's educational framework through severe budget cuts. In a post on X, Kharge condemned the budget cuts, stating, "The BJP-RSS is intent on destroying India's education sector through relentless cuts. This year's budget slashes higher education funding by a staggering Rs 9,600 crore — a reduction of 16.38 percent." Kharge further highlighted that the budget for premier institutions like IITs [Indian Institutes of Technology] and IIMs [Indian Institutes of Management] has been cut for the

## Netanyahu, Biden meet for tense ceasefire talks

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he was ready to work with Joe Biden for the rest of his presidency, as the two leaders met for the first time at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire. "I want to thank you for the 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the state of Israel," Netanyahu said after they shook hands in the historic setting of the Oval Office. "And I look forward to discussing with you today and working with you in the months ahead." Biden stunned the world on Sunday when he announced that he was bowing out of the US presidential election, with Vice President Kamala Harris now set to be the Democratic Party's candidate. Relations between Biden and Netanyahu are tense over Israel's conduct in their campaign. They have met just three times during his presidency, once in September last year in New York, and then when Biden travelled to Israel after the attacks and hugged Netanyahu on the airport tarmac at Tel Aviv. The meetings come after Netanyahu vowed "total victory" against Hamas in a fiery speech Wednesday to the US Congress. The White House was surrounded by metal barriers and a heavy police presence, after rowdy protests broke out near the Capitol following Netanyahu's speech. Harris on Thursday condemned the "despicable" and "unpatriotic" burning of an American flag by protesters, after attempts by Donald Trump's Republicans to paint Democrats as pro-Hamas.

## US vice president says she 'will not be silent' in face of Gaza suffering

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Thursday that she expressed concern about the situation in the Gaza Strip to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the White House. "I made clear my serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation there, with over 2 million people facing high levels of food insecurity and half a million people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity," Harris told reporters after the closed-door meeting with Netanyahu. The meeting came a day after Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the US Congress, where he claimed that the conflict in Gaza has "one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatant casualties in the history of urban warfare". Harris said that what has happened in Gaza over the past nine months was "devastating". "The images of dead children and desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety, sometimes displaced for the second, third, or fourth time. "We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering. And I will not be silent," she added. Earlier, Netanyahu met with US President Joe Biden, who ended his presidential re-election campaign on Sunday and endorsed Harris to replace him as the Democratic presidential candidate. With her remarks, Harris reflected a major shift in Gaza policy, while urging Netanyahu to reach a ceasefire in the besieged enclave.

## France's high-speed railway hit by 'sabotage' during Olympics

**Monitoring Desk** PARIS: France's high-speed rail network was hit by "malicious acts" including arson attacks that have disrupted the transport system, train operator SNCF said on Friday, hours before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics. A source close to the investigation told AFP that the attacks were coordinated acts of "sabotage". "This is a massive attack on a large scale to paralyse the TGV network," SNCF told AFP, adding that many routes will have to be cancelled. "SNCF was the victim of several simultaneous malicious acts overnight," the national train operator said, adding that the attacks affected its Atlantic, northern and eastern lines. "Arson attacks were started to damage our facilities," it said, adding that traffic on the affected lines was "heavily disrupted" and the situation would last through the weekend as repairs are conducted. Trains were being diverted to different tracks "but we will have to cancel a large number of them", the statement said. The south-eastern line was not affected as "a malicious act was foiled". SNCF urged passengers to postpone their trips and stay away from train stations. French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said that security forces are hunting the suspects behind the arson attacks that hobbled the country's high-speed rail network. "Our intelligence services and law enforcement are mobilised to find and punish the perpetrators of these criminal acts."

## Uganda police arrest more people protesting corruption

**Monitoring Desk** KAMPALA: Ugandan police detained several people in the capital Kampala on Thursday during a second day of anti-corruption protests that are demanding the resignation of the parliament speaker, footage broadcast by local media showed. Drawing inspiration from weeks of youth-led protests in neighbouring Kenya that forced the president there to withdraw proposed tax hikes, young Ugandans began demonstrating this week against alleged graft by elected leaders. The police quickly shut down a planned march to parliament on Tuesday. They arrested at least 73 young protesters, according to Chapter Four Uganda, an organisation providing legal services to those detained. On Thursday, more demonstrators took to the streets, according to video posted on X by the Daily Monitor newspaper. The footage showed police in riot gear forcing several young adults into the back of a truck as they



A display shows cancelled flights on the day activists of the "Letzte Generation" (Last Generation) staged a demonstration near the runways at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany.

## Sardar Avaz Sadiq says Proactive, inclusive parliament, pivotal for strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Avaz Sadiq on Friday said that constitutional and parliamentary supremacy was key to lead country on the path of development and prosperity. He also said that bridging the gap between parliament and masses would render parliament stronger and more effective. "Educated and well-awared youth is a catalyst for ensuring prosperity and economic stability" he expressed these views while addressing the Orientation Programme of Interns serving in National Assembly Secretariat at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

undertaken during his previous tenure as Speaker National Assembly. He said that there was no strategy document of National Assembly and All Parties Committee was formulated to prepare a Strategic Plan. As a result, 1st Strategic Plan 2014-2018 for the sustained development and growth of the National Assembly was introduced, he added. He said it was a holistic programme, which envisioned the development of technical skills like legislative drafting and creation of a well-resourced and efficient parliamentary services corps. In order to ensure quality legislative process a Legislative Drafting Council was established to assist Private Members in drafting effective Bills on

various subjects of socio-economic and political significance for the masses, he added. The Speaker highlighted the contours of "Parliamentary Studies Program" as a top 25 universities of Pakistan signed a declaration to commence parliamentary studies degrees and as of now 17 of them implemented the declaration by offering it. In addition, diplomas and short courses had also been introduced. In order to engage the educated youth of Pakistan, around 100 young fresh graduates had been recruited in the Parliament House through Young Parliamentary Associates program to serve in different departments, providing the much-needed research services, he said.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN at Constanta Port, Romania.

## Pakistan Navy Commissions 3rd offshore patrol vessel PNS HUNAIN in Romania

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy has commissioned its Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), PNS HUNAIN at Constanta Port, Romania, where Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Chief of the Defence Staff of Romania General Gheorghita Vlad and Chief of Romanian Navy Vice Admiral Mihai Panait also attended as guests of honour, a Pakistan Navy news release said. While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on the significance of the project and highlighted the additional set of capabilities added to PN sphere of operations with the induction

of PNS HUNAIN. He expressed his confidence that induction of these multi-purpose and highly adaptive platforms; equipped with state-of-the-art weapons/ sensors suite, will further enhance PN forward presence and perpetual operational readiness vis-à-vis deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) in the Indian Ocean Region. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf commended the exceptional professionalism and dedication of DAMEN Shipyard and expressed confidence in the prospects of future cooperation in delivering cutting-edge technologies to Pakistan Navy.

## Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin calls on President

KARACHI (APP): Head of Dawoodi Bohra community Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at Bilawal House on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said that the Bohra community was playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The President said that the Bohra community was actively participating in the economy and business sectors of Pakistan. President Zardari said the services of Bohra community in education, health and other sectors are commendable. The President also appreciated the services of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin for Pakistan in the field of social services.



Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House, Karachi.

## AI Policy to be presented before Cabinet for approval next month: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the final draft of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy would be presented to the Federal Cabinet for approval in August. Addressing a meeting of the Special Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, he directed the quarters concerned to complete the consultation process with all stakeholders as soon as possible, according to a news release. He highlighted the importance of AI in the modern era, saying "Artificial intelligence is not the future but the present reality in the world," and highlighted it as an essential tool for advancement in multiple fields. The minister recalled that it was the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government that established the National Center for Artificial Intelligence in 2017 and the National Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in 2023. "We have created National Centers for Excellence in Advanced Technologies under Vision 2025 and linked each centre to engineering labs in eight to ten universities," he added. Had these centres not been established on time, Ahsan Iqbal said the country would have been left far behind in this field. He noted that in the past, inconsistencies in various policies had hindered development activities and the uplift of the national economy. Under a conspiracy, he said, the nation's self-confidence had been eroded, with some elements causing serious damage to

its image abroad, contrary to the true depiction of an intelligent and hardworking nation. Whenever Pakistan's economic progress began to gain momentum, he said, some elements appeared to obstruct it. Now, he added, with the initiation of the second phase of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC), the "characters of riot and anarchy" were active once again. During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, the minister said the brotherly country pledged to provide IT training to 200,000 Pakistani youth, equipping them with the skills needed to meet modern challenges. He said the world was developing rapidly in various aspects of artificial intelligence, and Pakistan has to catch its pace.

## ADB approves \$400mln flood recovery loan for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved a \$400 million concessional loan to support the reconstruction of houses and community infrastructure in Pakistan's Sindh province damaged by the devastating floods in 2022. The Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project will rehabilitate flood-damaged houses and community infrastructure and support livelihood recovery, with a focus on strengthening communities' resilience against climate change-induced natural hazards, according to an ADB press release received here.

total assistance from 2023 to 2025 to accelerate the country's flood recovery. "This project will help rebuild homes and communities, and restore livelihood and basic services in Sindh, the province most affected by the devastating 2022 floods," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "It is part of ADB's extensive support to help Pakistan recover from the disaster which affected 33 million people and damaged houses and infrastructure across the nation," Zhukov added. Sindh province sustained about 83% of the total housing damage inflicted by the 2022 floods, with around 2.1 million houses either fully destroyed or damaged.

This project is a key part of ADB's multifaceted response to Pakistan's flood crisis and forms part of the bank's commitment to provide \$1.5 billion in



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai administering oath to newly elected MPAs Nawab Changez Marri

## CM Balochistan seeks report about shortage of canal water in Naseerabad Division

Mir Sarfraz Bugti assures to resolve issues being faced by zamindars due to shortage of canal water & otherwise

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has sought the report of shortage of canal water in Naseerabad Division. Seeking report from the Commissioner Naseerabad Division, the Chief Minister directed to take prompt measures for resolving the issue of shortage of canal water in the division after reviewing situation. The Chief Minister was in a meeting with the delegation of zamindars belonging to Naseerabad and Sohatpur during his visit to Sohatpur on Friday morning. The Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq

Umrani, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd and Parliamentary Secretary, Muhammad Khan Lehri were also present in the meeting. During the course of meeting, the zamindars apprised the Chief Minister about the shortage of canal water and other issues being faced by them in their areas. The Provincial Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani also informed the Chief Minister about the issue of water being faced by zamindars of the area. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister assured that all out efforts to be made to resolve the issues of zamindars.



QUETTA: DG Health Services Dr. Amin Mandokhail meeting with Advisor to Chief Minister Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## NDMA to enhance disaster management, launches disaster alert app

ISLAMABAD (APP): Team Lead Manager at National Disaster Management Authority Zahra Hassan Friday disclosed that NDMA has launched the Pak Disaster Alert App, a ground breaking mobile application designed to enhance community engagement, ensure timely risk mitigation and taking a significant step towards enhancing Pakistan's disaster management capabilities by initiating the adoption of best global practices. Talking to PTV news channel, she said that this move aims to strengthen the country's resilience against natural and man-made disasters, adding, NDMA has established partnerships with global experts and organizations to leverage their expertise and experience in disaster management. She added that NDMA is developing SOPs based on international best practices to ensure swift

and effective response to disasters, adding, NDMA is upgrading its early warning systems to incorporate global advancements, enabling timely alerts and evacuations. NDMA also publishing books in various national and regional languages to aware public, she said, adding, NDMA is promoting disaster risk reduction strategies, aligning with global frameworks, to minimize the impact of disasters. Meanwhile Deputy Manager Infrastructure Wing NDMA Mariam Qudsia added that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan has been working towards enhancing its disaster management capabilities and infrastructure development in remote areas. NDMA has launched a material hub for 6 districts of Pakistan to control disaster, which aims to provide a centralized location for storing and distributing disaster-related materials.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai and MPAs Asghar Ali Tareen and Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini talking with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti after conclusion of Assembly session

## Shaza announces initiation of legal battle against those involved in making deepfake video of Azma

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, announced on Friday the initiation of a legal battle against those involved in making a deepfake video of Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari. Addressing a press conference alongside the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate

Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, Shaista Pervaiz Malik, and other Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) women leaders, she said that the original video and related information had been obtained. She expressed gratitude to social media platforms for removing the video and assured that the government would pursue the case with the (FIA) effectively and forcefully.

## Naqvi praises security forces for successful operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has lauded security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in Hoshab, Balochistan. He praised the swift response of the Security Forces in defeating the nefarious designs of the terrorists.

## Bad blood between rival Bugti groups leaves five dead in Karachi's Defence

KARACHI (INP): Five people were killed and two others injured when two rival groups of Balochistan's Bugti clan resorted to indiscriminate firing at each other in Defence area of Karachi late Thursday night. According to police, a personal feud between Fahad Bugti group and Ali Haider Bugti triggered the firefight in Khayaban-e-Nishat in Defence area. Both groups linked to the family of late Balochistan governor Nawab Akbar Bugti. Three deceased belonged to one group and the other two belonged to second group. All the dead and the wounded were cousins. Two nephews of Nawab Akbar Bugti were also among the dead. The deceased were identified as Mir Mehsam

Bugti, Mir Isa Bugti, Ali Bugti, Fahad Bugti and Naeibullah while the injured were named as Mir Ali Haider Bugti and Qaim Ali who were under treatment at a hospital. After the blood clash, the police arrested 12 people belonged to both the groups and started interrogating, the sources in police said. Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar took notice of the incident and sought a report from the additional inspector general of police. The minister said nobody was above the law and possible steps would be taken for the establishment of the writ of the law. The dead and injured were taken to Jinnah Hospital where supporters of both the groups remained present throughout the night.



HUB: Activists of Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest rally for acceptance of their demands, in Hub.

## Dr. Rubaba Buledi says 22% population of Balochistan access to basic health facilities

QUETTA (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Friday said that only 22 percent of the total population of the province has access to basic health facilities, comprehensive measures would be taken to ensure best health care facilities to the masses. Director General Balochistan Health Services Dr. Amin Mandokhail met with Adviser Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi. During the meeting, the discussion focused on the current state of healthcare services and the challenges faced by female healthcare professionals in the province. Dr. Amin Mandokhail provided a comprehensive overview of the healthcare

services provided by the Balochistan Health Department. He highlighted the pressing issues faced by female doctors, nurses, and medical technicians, which include inadequate facilities, lack of security, and limited career progression opportunities. Talking in the meeting, she said long-term programs are being devised to make health facilities accessible to everyone through public-private partnership. Adviser to the Chief Minister announced that the Women Development Department will soon sign a memorandum of understanding with the Health Department. This MoU will facilitate joint efforts to address health issues faced by women in Balochistan. "This collaboration

## Health Department provides emergency vaccines to DHQ Hospital in Hub

HUB (APP): The Health Department on Friday provided necessary vaccines to the DHQ Hospital Hub on an emergency basis to address the critical shortage of vaccines. According to details, it was the swift action taken by the Deputy Commissioner of Hub, Ruhana Gul Kakar that prompted the Health Department to take this urgent step.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan being briefed during his visit of Directorate of Public Relations Balochistan. DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present